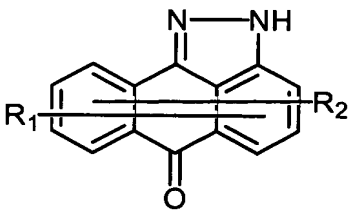
IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend claims 2, 3, 25-28 and 32 to read as set forth below. Please cancel claims 9 and 17-23 without prejudice. Please add new claims 40-46 as set forth below:

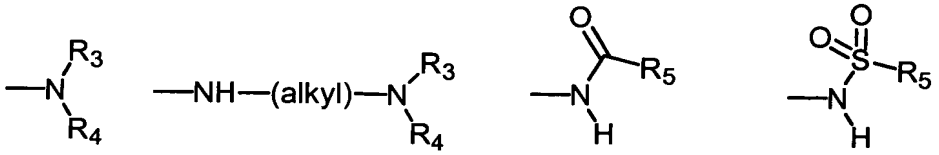
1. (Previously Amended) A compound having the structure:



or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof,

wherein

R_1 and R_2 are optional substituents that are the same or different and independently represent nitro, trifluoromethyl, sulfonyl, aryl, arylalkyloxy, arylalkyl, cycloalkylalkyloxy, cycloalkyloxy, alkoxyalkyl, alkoxyalkoxy, aminoalkoxy, mono- or di-alkylaminoalkoxy, or a group represented by formula (a), (b), (c) or (d):



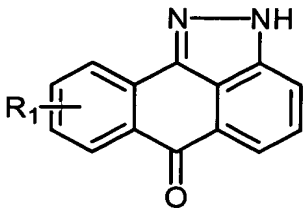
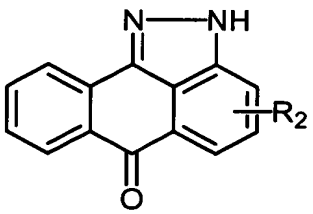
(a) (b) (c) (d)

R_3 and R_4 are the same or different and independently represent cycloalkyl, aryl, arylalkyl, cycloalkylalkyl, aryloxyalkyl, alkoxyalkyl, alkoxyamino, or alkoxy(mono- or di-alkylamino); and

R_5 represents hydrogen, alkyl, cycloalkyl, carbocyclic aromatic, heterocyclic aromatic, arylalkyl, cycloalkylalkyl, alkoxy, amino, mono- or di-alkylamino, arylamino, arylalkylamino, cycloalkylamino or cycloalkylalkylamino, with the proviso that carbocyclic aromatic is not phenyl;

and with the proviso that at least R_1 or R_2 is present.

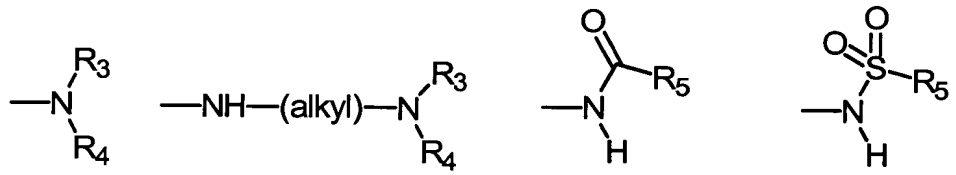
2. (Currently Amended) A compound having one of the following structures:

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof,

wherein

R_1 represents nitro, trifluoromethyl, sulfonyl, carboxyl, alkoxycarbonyl, ~~alkoxy,~~ aryl, arylalkyloxy, arylalkyl, cycloalkylalkyloxy, cycloalkyloxy, alkoxyalkyl, alkoxyalkoxy, aminoalkoxy, mono- or di-alkylaminoalkoxy, or a group represented by formula (a), (b), (c) or (d):

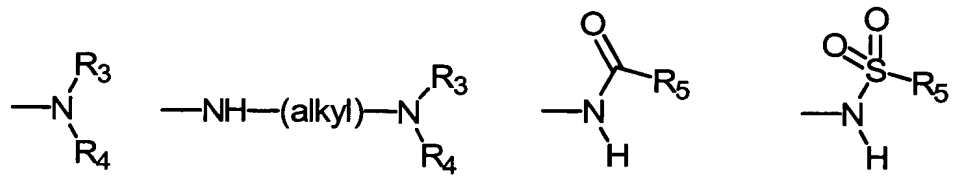


(a) (b) (c) (d)

when R_1 is present, R_3 and R_4 are the same or different and independently represent hydrogen, alkyl, cycloalkyl, aryl, arylalkyl, cycloalkylalkyl, aryloxyalkyl, alkoxyalkyl, alkoxyamino, or alkoxy(mono- or di-alkylamino);

when R_1 is present, R_5 represents hydrogen, alkyl, cycloalkyl, aryl, arylalkyl, cycloalkylalkyl, alkoxy, amino, mono- or di-alkylamino, arylamino, arylalkylamino, cycloalkylamino or cycloalkylalkylamino;

R_2 represents nitro, trifluoromethyl, sulfonyl, alkoxycarbonyl, aryl, arylalkyloxy, arylalkyl, cycloalkylalkyloxy, cycloalkyloxy, alkoxyalkyl, alkoxyalkoxy, aminoalkoxy, mono- or di-alkylaminoalkoxy, or a group represented by formula (a), (b), (c) or (d):

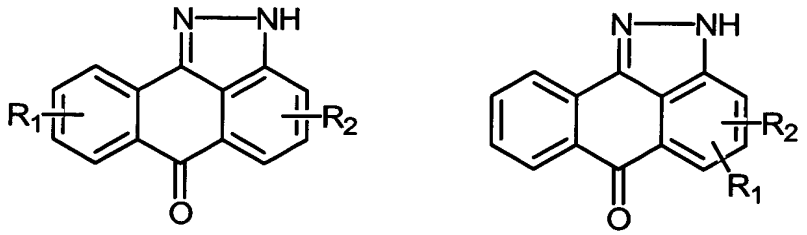


(a) (b) (c) (d)

when R_2 is present, R_3 and R_4 are the same or different and independently represent ~~alkyl,~~ cycloalkyl, aryl, arylalkyl, cycloalkylalkyl, aryloxyalkyl, alkoxyalkyl, alkoxyamino, or alkoxy(mono- or di-alkylamino); and

when R_2 is present, R_5 represents hydrogen, alkyl, cycloalkyl, carbocyclic aromatic, heterocyclic aromatic, arylalkyl, cycloalkylalkyl, alkoxy, amino, mono- or di-alkylamino, arylamino, arylalkylamino, cycloalkylamino or cycloalkylalkylamino with the proviso that carbocyclic aromatic is not phenyl.

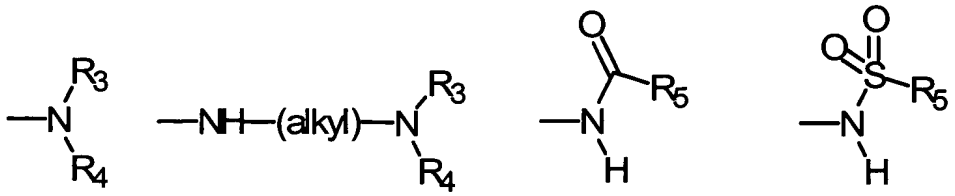
3. (Currently Amended) A compound having one of the following structures:



or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof,

wherein

R_1 and R_2 represent alkyl, halogen, nitro, trifluoromethyl, ~~sulfonyl,~~ carboxyl, alkoxycarbonyl, alkoxy, aryl, aryloxy, arylalkyloxy, arylalkyl, cycloalkylalkyloxy, cycloalkyloxy, alkoxyalkyl, alkoxyalkoxy, aminoalkoxy, mono- or di-alkylaminoalkoxy, or a group represented by formula (a), (b), (c) or (d):

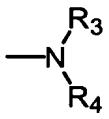


(a) (b) (c) (d)

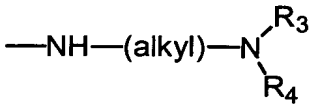
R_3 and R_4 taken together represent alkylidene or a heteroatom-containing alkylidene, or R_3 and R_4 are the same or different and independently represent hydrogen, alkyl, cycloalkyl, aryl, arylalkyl, cycloalkylalkyl, aryloxyalkyl, alkoxyalkyl, alkoxyamino, or alkoxy(mono- or di-alkylamino); and

R_5 represents hydrogen, alkyl, cycloalkyl, aryl, arylalkyl, cycloalkylalkyl, alkoxy, amino, mono- or di-alkylamino, arylamino, arylalkylamino, cycloalkylamino or cycloalkylalkylamino.

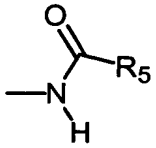
4. (Original) The compound of claim 2 wherein R_1 and R_2 are:



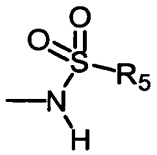
5. (Original) The compound of claim 2 wherein R_1 and R_2 are:



6. (Original) The compound of claim 2 wherein R_1 and R_2 are:



7. (Original) The compound of claim 2 wherein R_1 and R_2 are:



8. (Previously Amended) A composition comprising the compound or pharmaceutically acceptable salt of the compound of claim 1 and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

9. (Canceled)

10. (Previously Canceled)

11. (Previously Canceled)

12. (Previously Canceled)

13. (Previously Canceled)

14. (Previously Canceled)

15. (Previously Canceled)

16. (Previously Canceled)

17. (Canceled)

18. (Canceled)

19. (Canceled)

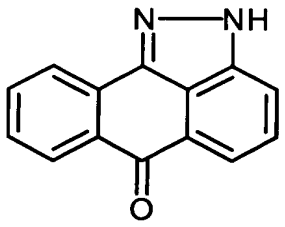
20. (Canceled)

21. (Canceled)

22. (Canceled)

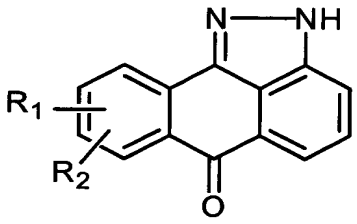
23. (Canceled)

24. (Original) A composition comprising a compound having the structure:



or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

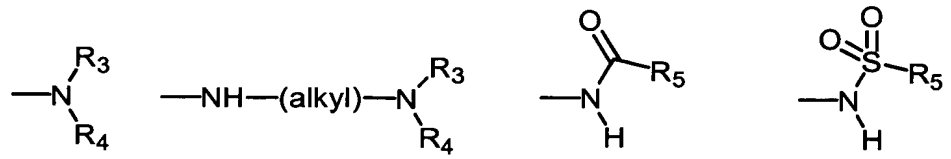
25. (Currently Amended) A compound having the structure:



or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof,

wherein

R_1 and R_2 are optional substituents that are the same or different and independently represent, nitro, trifluoromethyl, sulfonyl, carboxyl, alkoxycarbonyl, ~~alkoxy,~~ aryl, arylalkyloxy, arylalkyl, cycloalkylalkyloxy, cycloalkyloxy, alkoxyalkyl, alkoxyalkoxy, aminoalkoxy, mono- or di-alkylaminoalkoxy, or a group represented by formula (a), (b), (c) or (d):



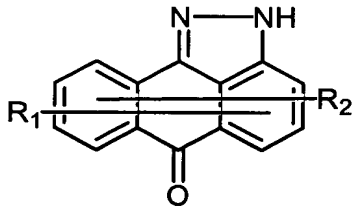
(a) (b) (c) (d)

R_3 and R_4 are the same or different and independently represent hydrogen, alkyl, cycloalkyl, aryl, arylalkyl, cycloalkylalkyl, aryloxyalkyl, alkoxyalkyl, alkoxyamino, or alkoxy(mono- or di-alkylamino); and

R_5 represents hydrogen, alkyl, cycloalkyl, aryl, arylalkyl, cycloalkylalkyl, alkoxy, amino, mono- or di-alkylamino, arylamino, arylalkylamino, cycloalkylamino or cycloalkylalkylamino;

and with the proviso that at least one of R_1 or R_2 is present.

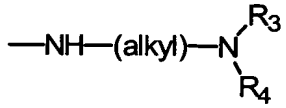
26. (Currently Amended) A compound having the structure:



or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof,

wherein

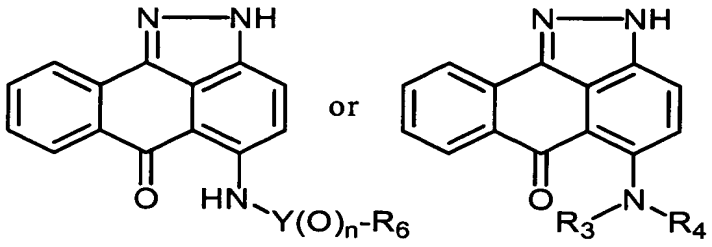
R_1 and R_2 are optional substituents that are the same or different and independently represent:



wherein R_3 and R_4 are the same or different and independently represent hydrogen, ~~alkyl,~~ cycloalkyl, aryl, arylalkyl, cycloalkylalkyl, aryloxyalkyl, alkoxyalkyl, alkoxyamino, or alkoxy(mono- or di-alkylamino);

and with the proviso that at least R_1 or R_2 is present.

27. (Currently Amended) A compound having one of the following structures:



or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof,

wherein

Y is C or S;

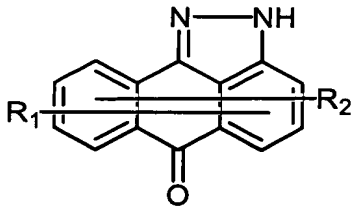
n is 1 when Y is C;

n is 2 when Y is S;

R_3 and R_4 are the same or different and independently represent ~~hydrogen,~~ alkyl, cycloalkyl, aryl, arylalkyl, cycloalkylalkyl, aryloxyalkyl, alkoxyalkyl, alkoxyamino, or alkoxy(mono- or di-alkylamino); and

R_6 represents phenyl, pyridinyl, thienyl or alkyl.

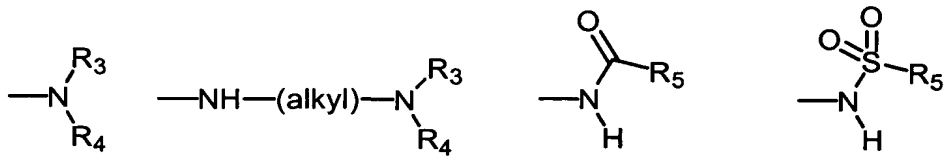
28. (Currently Amended) A method for treating a condition, comprising administering to a patient in need thereof an effective amount of a compound having the structure:



or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof,

wherein

R_1 and R_2 are optional substituents that are the same or different and independently represent alkyl, halogen, nitro, trifluoromethyl, sulfonyl, carboxyl, alkoxycarbonyl, alkoxy, aryl, aryloxy, arylalkyloxy, arylalkyl, cycloalkylalkyloxy, cycloalkyloxy, alkoxyalkyl, alkoxyalkoxy, aminoalkoxy, mono- or di-alkylaminoalkoxy, or a group represented by formula (a), (b), (c) or (d):



(a) (b) (c) (d)

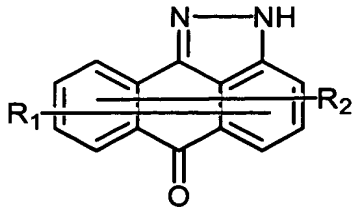
R_3 and R_4 are the same or different and independently represent hydrogen, ~~alkyl,~~ cycloalkyl, aryl, arylalkyl, cycloalkylalkyl, aryloxyalkyl, alkoxyalkyl, alkoxyamino, or alkoxy(mono- or di-alkylamino); and

R_5 represents hydrogen, alkyl, cycloalkyl, aryl, arylalkyl, cycloalkylalkyl, alkoxy, amino, mono- or di-alkylamino, arylamino, arylalkylamino, cycloalkylamino, or cycloalkylalkylamino,

the condition being cancer; rheumatoid arthritis; rheumatoid spondylitis; osteoarthritis; gout; asthma; bronchitis; cystic fibrosis; inflammatory bowel disease; irritable bowel syndrome; mucous colitis; ulcerative colitis; Crohn's disease; gastritis; esophagitis; hepatitis; multiple sclerosis; endotoxin shock; psoriasis; eczema; dermatitis; atherosclerosis; restenosis following angioplasty; left ventricular hypertrophy; myocardial infarction; stroke or ischemic damage to the heart, kidney, liver, or brain; transplant rejection; or a central or peripheral neurological degenerative disorder.

29. (Previously Added) The method of claim 28, wherein the central or peripheral neurological degenerative disorder is epilepsy, Alzheimer's disease, Parkinson's disease, Huntington's disease, amyotrophic laterial sclerosis, a peripheral neuropathy or spinal cord damage.

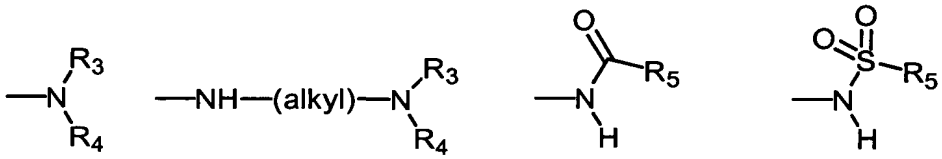
30. (Previously Added) A method for inhibiting JNK in a cell capable of expressing JNK, comprising contacting said cell with an effective amount of a compound having the structure:



or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof,

wherein

R_1 and R_2 are optional substituents that are the same or different and independently represent alkyl, halogen, nitro, trifluoromethyl, sulfonyl, carboxyl, alkoxycarbonyl, alkoxy, aryl, aryloxy, arylalkyloxy, arylalkyl, cycloalkylalkyloxy, cycloalkyloxy, alkoxyalkyl, alkoxyalkoxy, aminoalkoxy, mono- or di-alkylaminoalkoxy, or a group represented by formula (a), (b), (c) or (d):

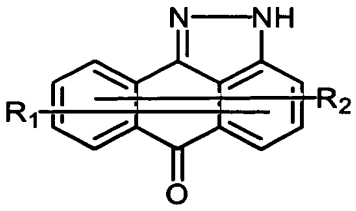


(a) (b) (c) (d)

R_3 and R_4 are the same or different and independently represent hydrogen, alkyl, cycloalkyl, aryl, arylalkyl, cycloalkylalkyl, aryloxyalkyl, alkoxyalkyl, alkoxyamino, or alkoxy(mono- or di-alkylamino); and

R_5 represents hydrogen, alkyl, cycloalkyl, aryl, arylalkyl, cycloalkylalkyl, alkoxy, amino, mono- or di-alkylamino, arylamino, arylalkylamino, cycloalkylamino, or cycloalkylalkylamino.

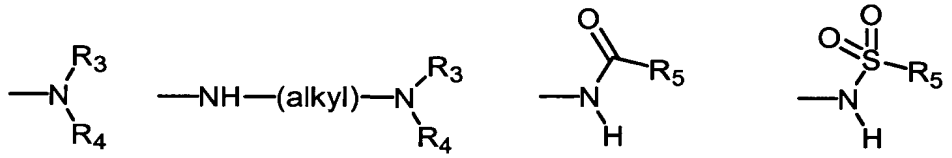
31. (Previously Added) A method for inhibiting JNK, comprising contacting JNK with an effective amount of a compound having the structure:



or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof,

wherein

R_1 and R_2 are optional substituents that are the same or different and independently represent alkyl, halogen, nitro, trifluoromethyl, sulfonyl, carboxyl, alkoxycarbonyl, alkoxy, aryl, aryloxy, arylalkyloxy, arylalkyl, cycloalkylalkyloxy, cycloalkyloxy, alkoxyalkyl, alkoxyalkoxy, aminoalkoxy, mono- or di-alkylaminoalkoxy, or a group represented by formula (a), (b), (c) or (d):



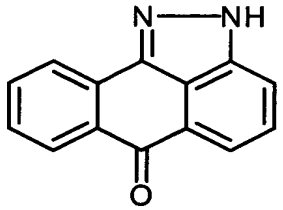
(a) (b) (c) (d)

R_3 and R_4 are the same or different and independently represent hydrogen, alkyl, cycloalkyl, aryl, arylalkyl, cycloalkylalkyl, aryloxyalkyl, alkoxyalkyl, alkoxyamino, or alkoxy(mono- or di-alkylamino); and

R_5 represents hydrogen, alkyl, cycloalkyl, aryl, arylalkyl, cycloalkylalkyl, alkoxy, amino, mono- or di-alkylamino, arylamino, arylalkylamino, cycloalkylamino, or cycloalkylalkylamino.

32. (Currently Amended) The method of claim ~~9,~~ 30 or 31, wherein the JNK is JNK1, JNK2 or JNK3.

33. (Previously Added) The method of claim 28, 30 or 31, wherein the compound has the structure:



or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

34. (Previously Added) The composition of claim 8 or 24, wherein the composition is a pharmaceutical composition.

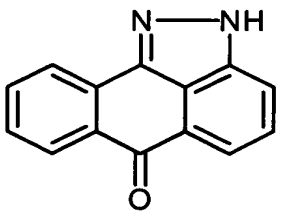
35. (Previously Added) The composition of claim 8 or 24, wherein the compound or pharmaceutically acceptable salt of the compound is present in an amount that is effective for inhibiting JNK.

36. (Previously Added) The composition of claim 8 or 24, wherein the compound or pharmaceutically acceptable salt of the compound is present in an amount that is effective for treating cancer; rheumatoid arthritis; rheumatoid spondylitis; osteoarthritis; gout; asthma; bronchitis; cystic fibrosis; inflammatory bowel disease; irritable bowel syndrome; mucous colitis; ulcerative colitis; Crohn's disease; gastritis; esophagitis; hepatitis; multiple sclerosis; endotoxin shock; psoriasis; eczema; dermatitis; atherosclerosis; restenosis following angioplasty; left ventricular hypertrophy; myocardial infarction; stroke or ischemic damage to the heart, kidney, liver, or brain; transplant rejection; or a central or peripheral neurological degenerative disorder.

37. (Previously Added) The composition of claim 36, wherein the central or peripheral neurological degenerative disorder is epilepsy, Alzheimer's disease, Parkinson's disease, Huntington's disease, amyotrophic laterial sclerosis, a peripheral neuropathy or spinal cord damage.

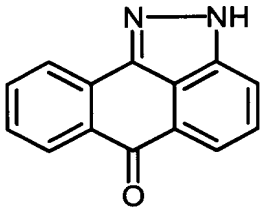
38. (Previously Added) The composition of claim 34, wherein the composition is in the form of a pill, tablet or capsule.

39. (Previously Added) A composition comprising JNK and a compound having the structure:



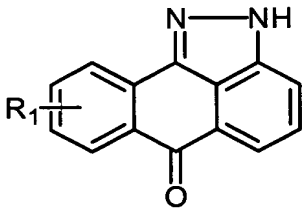
or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, wherein the compound is present in an amount effective for inhibiting JNK.

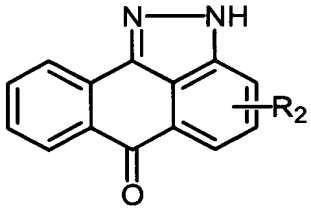
40. (New) The method of claim 28 wherein R_1 and R_2 are not present, and the compound having the following structure:



or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

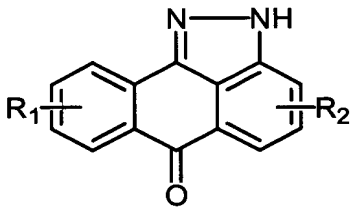
41. (New) The method of claim 28 wherein R_1 or R_2 is present, and the compound having one of the following structures:

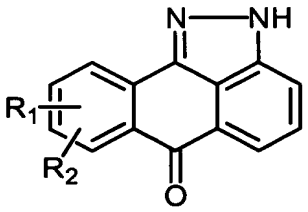


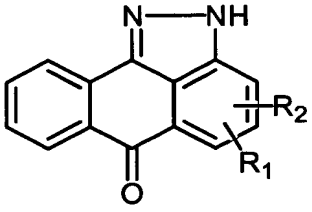


or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

42. (New) The method of claim 28 wherein both R_1 and R_2 are present, and the compound having one of the following structures:

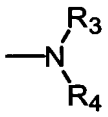




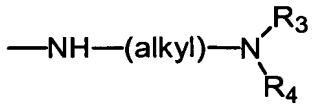


or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

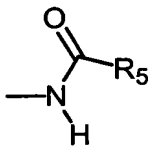
43. (New) The method of claim 42 wherein R_1 and R_2 are:



44. (New) The method of claim 42 wherein R_1 and R_2 are:



45. (New) The method of claim 42 wherein R_1 and R_2 are:



46. (New) The method of claim 42 wherein R_1 and R_2 are: